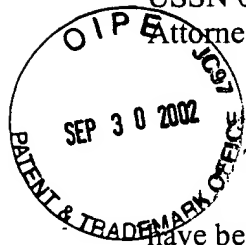


Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
PCT/AT99/00115
USSN 09/700,258
Attorney Docket Q61663

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REMARKS

The informalities noted in the specification, Abstract and claims in the last Office Action have been corrected.

In the last Office Action claims 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over German patent no. 93 01 769 to Kunstler in view of French patent no. 27 54 929 to Chanteur. It is believed that claim 20 should not be included in this rejection since it was indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 18, 19, 21, and 22 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

It is submitted that the subject matter of claim 18 is not the least bit obvious in view of the teachings of the references as combined in the last Office Action. These two references are directed to two completely different types of devices.

The German utility model '769 only discloses a presentation device having two elongated flexible uprights (1) which are connected by a crossbar (3) which is provided with two curved milled recesses (23) and holes (24) and is fastened by means of capnuts (21) and threaded pins (20) to adjustment rings (18). Contrary to this the French reference '929 discloses a presentation device where only a single essentially upright flexible stem (22) is provided consisting of tubes (23, 24, 25) which are plugged together by means of sleeves (26, 27). Since only a single essentially upright stem (22) is provided the presentation device is highly susceptible to distortion due to its one dimensional structure.

As the Examiner stated in the last Office Action there are two main differences between the presentation device according to the present invention and the presentation device taught by

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Kunstler. Kunstler does not teach two or more transverse struts and does not teach that the uprights composed of several flexible bars are plugged together. A further important difference is that Kunstler does not teach a plug connection between the crossbar (3) and the uprights (1).

The use of two or more transverse struts as specifically called for in the claims of the present application results in high stability for the stand even when the double-H stand is assembled from relatively short individual bars via multiple plug connections. Therefore a person skilled in the art aiming to reinforce the stability of the H-shaped presentation device according to Kunstler would never use the teachings of Chanteur since no adequate solution is disclosed therein due to the one dimensional stem structure according to the French patent which results in a highly unstable structure. Thus Chanteur even leads away from the present invention especially in view of the fact that Chanteur teaches the use of a cord (30) to enhance the connection of tubes (23, 24, 25) to each other and to the strut (29).

In the last Office Action it was alleged that it would obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Kunstler by making the uprights out of several flexible bars as taught by Chanteur. However such a presentation device would still provide the essential difference as pointed out above since there is absolutely no teaching in either of the references which would have rendered the formation of a double-H shape by use of at least two transverse struts plugged to the flexible bars of the upright.


In view of the non-obviousness of the combination of references as set forth above and in view of the fact that the references do not even teach or suggest the principle feature of the present invention it is submitted that claims 18, 19, 21 and 22 would not be obvious in view of

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
PCT/AT99/00115
USSN 09/700,258
Attorney Docket Q61663

the proposed combination of references. Therefore it is respectfully requested that these claims as well as claims 20 and 23-35 be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert V. Sloan", with a checkmark above the end of the signature.

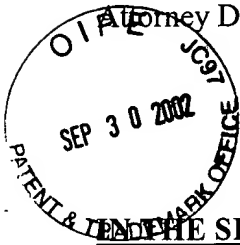
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Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
PCT/AT99/00115
USSN 09/700,258
Attorney Docket Q61663

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OCT 03 2002
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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 20, amend the first full paragraph as follows:

--Figure 20 illustrates this region of connection of the lower transverse bar 4 and in each case of the two middle longitudinal bars 3 by plugging into the combined T-Y-pieces 36' and attachment to the lower bars 3, Figure 20 showing two somewhat different coupling pieces 136 and 236', with the upper plug bushes being offset relative to one another.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

--27. (Amended) A presentation device as claimed in claim 25, ~~the preceding claims~~ further comprising a presentation carrier connected to and extending between said upper and lower transverse bars.--

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The abstract is changed as follows:

ABSTRACT

--A presentation device (1) is formed with a base (5), with bars (3) for a flexible stand (2) connected to the base (5) via a plug connection, and with a holder for a placard, a film or the like. A presentation carrier (6) connects the holder to the base (5) and the stand (2), wherein the

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
PCT/AT99/00115
USSN 09/700,258
Attorney Docket Q61663

stand (2) has individual bars (3), which are plugged together, and at least two transverse struts
(4) for achieving a double-H-structure of the stand (2).--